GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3367
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
INCREASE IN WATER RESOURCES
P.D. ELANGOVAN;SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the water holding capacity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the works assigned and taken up in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the details of funds allocated and disbursed so far;

(d) the total number of projects taken up and the approximate time frame within which the proposed projects are likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to implement through financial and technological assistance from foreign countries and also external agencies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) Water being a State subject water resources development projects are planned, executed and financed by the State Governments in accordance with their own priorities and from their own resources. Upto 1995, a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM)has been created by construction of large dams in the country. Besides, projects to add an additional storage capacity of 75 BCMare under construction and projects with completed live storage of 132 BCM are under planning.In addition, water has also been diverted into canals by constructing a large number of barrages/weirs etc. for utilisation of river water for various purposes. Besides, Governmentof India has formulated National Perspective Plan forwater resources development envisaging interlinking between various Peninslar and Himalayan river systems for transfer ofwater from surplus basins to water deficit bsisns / areas which is likely to provide an additional irrigation potential of 25 M ha through surface water and 10 M ha through increased use of ground water.

Government of India has been extending financial assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing projects at the earliest. Two Medium Irrigation Projects and one Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM)Irrigation Project are under implementation in Tamil Nadu from their plan allocations. The Central Ground Water Board has completed one scheme of ground water recharge while seven other schemes are under implementation at a total cost of Rs. 198.98 lakh. Under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

(NWDPRA) launched in the VIII Plan for improvedmoisture mangement by conservation of rainwater Tamil Nadu has been allocated Rs. 80 crore for the IX Plan against which an expenditure of Rs. 53.92 crore has been incurred upto March 2001.

(e) & (f) The Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project (TNWRCP) is being implemented through World Bank assistance at a cost of US $ 491 Million (Rs. 2,267.4 crore). The objectives of the project are to introduce water resources planning by river basins across all uses of water; improve agriculture productivity through modernization and completion of irrigation systems, upgraded water management and farmer participation; assure sustainability of water infrastructure and the environment; and improve institutional and technical capabilities for managing the State's water resources.